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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00671 291512 Z

44
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /024 W
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R 291415 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7146
INFO USDOC WASHDC

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FOR EB/ CBA - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LADD FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ECOM, CY
SUBJECT: GOC COMMERCE MINISTER SUPPORTS CYPRUS CARTON
MANUFACTURER REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: NICOSIA 654

1. I HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM GOC COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER COLOCASSIDES REQUESTING ME TO USE MY GOOD OFFICES TO HELP SALAMIS CARTON INDUSTRY LTD (SCIL) OBTAIN ADEQUATE QUANTITIES OF KRAFT LINER BOARD FROM THEIR AMERICAN SUPPLIER. SCIL PROBLEM OUTLINED REFTEL.

2. MINISTER' S LETTER SAYS THAT GOC " ANXIOUS THAT SCIL CONTINUE TO OPERATE SMOOTHING BECAUSE OF ITS SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY IN VIEW OF THE TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE OF CITRUS AS AN EXPORT ITEM." LETTER NOTES THAT WHEN INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO INFORMED SCIL OF THEIR INABILITY TO MAINTAIN KRAFT LINER DELIVERIES BEYOND APRIL 1973, SCIL APPROACHED ST. REGIS PAPER CO, 150 EAST 42 ND STREET, NEW YORK CITY, FOR SUPPLIES, IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE COMPANIES TOTED RENTEL. ST. REGIS FIRST INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS SIGN SUPPLY CONTRACT WITH SCIL BUT THEN BACKED OFF, CITING TIGHT SUPPLY SITUATION.

3. SCIL, WITH CURRENT ANNUAL KRAFT LINER REQUIREMENTS VALUED AT ABOUT $800,000, IS LARGEST SINGLE COMMERCIAL
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IMPORTER OF U. S. PRODUCTS IN CYPRUS. SCIL' S ROLE IN THE CITRUS INDUSTRY HAS BEEN DEPENDENT UPON ITS SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS FROM U. S. TO CUT THEM OFF ENTIRELY AFTER TWO- YEAR SALES RELATIONSHIP SEEMS SHORT- SIGNTED, UNREASONABLE AND DAMAGING TO OUR GENERAL EFFORT TO EXPAND U. S. EXPORT TO CYPRUS AND, IN A BROADER SENSE, TO OUR GENERAL POLITICAL STANDING AND ABILITY TO EXERT CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE IN CYPRUS.

4. N VIEW OF MINISTER' S CONCERN AND IMPORTANCE OF SCIL ROLE IN CYPRUS ECONOMY, I BELIEVE WE MUST MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO CONVINCE U. S. PRODUCTERS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPLYCYPRUS COMPANY, AT LEAST AT RATIONED LEVEL PROPORTIONATE TO PAST SALES. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN SUPPORTING COMMERCE EFFORTS, PERHAPS BY TELEPHONING INTERNATIONAL PAPER SENIOR OFFICER, OUTLINING OUR CONCERN, AND URGING THEM TO CONTINUE SOME EQUITABLE LEVEL OF SUPPLY TO SCIL. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR TALKING TO ST. REGIS RE POSSIBILITIES OF 1973-74 SUPPLY CONTRACT WITH SCIL.

5. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. HOPE WE MAY RECEIVE EARLY REPORT OF FIRMS' REACTIONS.

DECON AFTER MARCH 29, L974.

POPPER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NICOSI00671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730341/aaaailoh.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NICOSIA 654
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980107
Subject: GOC COMMERCE MINISTER SUPPORTS CYPRUS CARTON MANUFACTURER REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
TAGS: ECON, ETRD, CY
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